



2021 Los Angeles
Congress of
Neighborhoods

Leading Change Together

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
8:00 AM - 3:45 PM ONLINE VIA ZOOM



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Maria Skelton



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Special Thanks to

- Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
- Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment
 - Raquel Beltrán, General Manager
 - Julien Antelin, Director of Innovation
 - Ann-Marie Holmann, Public Information Officer
 - Freddy Cupen-Ames, Congress Liaison
- Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
- LA City Attorney - Neighborhood Council Advice Division



Schedule

8:00 AM
WORKSHOP SESSION 1

9:00 AM
OPENING SESSION

10:05 AM
WORKSHOP SESSION 2

11:00 AM
WORKSHOP SESSION 3

11:50 AM
LUNCH & LEARN

12:40 PM
WORKSHOP SESSION 4

1:35 PM
WORKSHOP SESSION 5

2:25 PM
CLOSING SESSION

2:45 PM
WORKSHOP SESSION 6

ALL-DAY
NETWORKING LOUNGE
EXHIBITOR FAIR



Welcome to the 2021 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods

On behalf of the the 2021 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee, thank you for being a part of this special day, "*Leading Change Together*," an apt theme for our attendees:

LEADING - We all lead in different ways. Some by virtue as elected, unpaid board members on Neighborhood Councils. Some serve countless hours on committees. Sometimes we show leadership by being the lone dissenting voice. I see leadership all year in our communities throughout Los Angeles, and I hope we all encourage more leaders to recognize their power in our neighborhoods.

CHANGE - While this word may be scary or stressful (gentrification, elections, relocating are some words that come to mind), I believe Neighborhood Council leaders, as the most local members of government, are the best equipped to address change and be responsive to local needs.

TOGETHER - Young, old, rich, poor, gay, straight, renters, homeowners -- Los Angeles is great because of all of us unite to support one another in good times and bad, because at the end of the day we are all neighbors who want what's best for our community. Whether uniting to fight a global pandemic, get your family to school on time, or move through a long board meeting, we know we can do it better together.

I look forward to serving alongside all of you as courageous leaders, thoughtful changemakers, and neighbors united together in our love for Los Angeles. No matter what this next year throws at us, I know our Neighborhood Councils got this.

Thank you for joining us today for the 2021 Congress of Neighborhoods – the second virtual Congress!

Congratulations to Daniel A. Perez, Neighborhood Council Congress (Congress) Planning Committee Chair, and the members of the Congress Planning Committee for organizing an exciting day of informative and interactive panels, lectures, and keynote speakers. You have dedicated endless hours throughout the year planning a program that supports the important work of the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system. Thank you.

Welcome to all the newly elected board members and first-time participants in the Congress. The Neighborhood Council system exists because of the numerous civic leaders who donate their time and expertise to serve their communities. You have joined amazing people representing Los Angeles's diverse perspectives, racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, ages, gender expressions/presentations, lifestyles, experiences, and interests. What you all have in common is a willingness to serve.

I would like to thank LA Civil Rights General Manager Capri Maddox, Esq. for providing the keynote address. I also thank the City elected officials and City department colleagues, who will be sharing information and resources as speakers throughout the day. Your involvement is testimony to the important contribution neighborhood councils make to the fabric of civic engagement life in Los Angeles.

I would like to share special thanks for the staff of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. They work hard to support the event and help the Congress Committee fulfill its vision each year.

We must take a moment to recognize the individual Neighborhood Councils who provided financial support for the 2021 Congress. The NC Congress is supported entirely by donations from Neighborhood Councils which was notably more challenging during this ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether you're a seasoned board member or brand new to Neighborhood Councils, what you'll learn here today will help you and your board achieve more on behalf of your community.



Daniel A. Perez
Chair, 2021 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee

Raquel Beltrán
General Manager,
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment



Opening Session

9:00AM - 10:00AM

- Featuring Host Judy Thang
- Pledge of Allegiance by Sherman Oaks youth Christina Flores, 17; Joseph Flores, 16; Chatsworth youth Brielle Northcutt, 11; and Pacoima youth Terrel, 12, and Terry Calugcugan, 9
- National Anthem by Sherman Oaks youth Faith Aldridge, 8
- Convocation by Daniel A. Perez, Chair of the 2021 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee
- Welcome by Raquel Beltran, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
- Meet the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
- Welcome by LA City Council President Nury Martinez
- Welcome by LA Mayor Eric Garcetti
- Keynote Address by Capri Maddox, Esq., Executive Director/General Manager, Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity



Online Exhibitor Fair

Visit these departments and organizations "tabling" during the conference to ask questions, hear updates, and more!

Session 1 (8:00am - 10:50am)

- LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
- LA County Department of Mental Health
- LA Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
- Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

Session 2 (10:50am - 1:25pm)

- Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission
- Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment - CARE and CARE+
- Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

Session 3 (1:25pm - 3:45pm)

- City Clerk NC Funding Program
- LA28 - Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance



Networking Lounge and Info Booth

Open All Day (8:00am - 3:45pm)

The Networking Lounge and Info Booth is the online room available throughout the day for attendees to continue conversations from sessions, ask questions of our Info Booth volunteers, or otherwise take a break from the day's scheduled programming.

NEIGHBORHOODCONGRESS.LA



Workshop Sessions

Session 1

8:00am - 9:00am

The People's Budget LA: Radically Rethinking City Priorities



Greg Akili / Black Lives Matter-LA & People's Budget LA
Rev. Rae Huang / Clergy for Black Lives, Presbytery of the Pacific
Tabatha L. Jones Jolivet, PhD / Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles
Lex Jones / People's Budget LA

What would happen if the City prioritized social services and human life over military policing? Join us for a presentation and discussion of a budget reimagined to fund housing, food, healthcare, economic assistance, public transportation, parks, and more without disregarding the importance of community safety. Gain a better understanding of how the Mayor's budget aligns (or doesn't) with the public priorities, and walk away with tools for advocating for A People's Budget in your community.

What Neighborhood Councils Have Done And Can Do Regarding Animal Welfare



Jeffrey Mausner / Tarzana Neighborhood Council
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield / Los Angeles City Council District 3
Dana Stangel / Teranga Ranch

Neighborhood Councils have been instrumental in animal welfare issues over the last few years. Join Los Angeles City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Dana Stangel (Executive Director of the Teranga Ranch), and Jeffrey Mausner (Chair of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee) in discussion of What Neighborhood Councils Have Done and Can Do Regarding Animal Welfare.

"What's wrong with what I said?": Understanding and Eliminating Microaggressions to Foster Safer Spaces for All



Lauren Buisson / LGBTQ+ Alliance of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils
Lynn Jeong Stransky / LGBTQ+ Alliance of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils

Join the LGBTQ+ Alliance of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils to learn how to recognize what microaggressions are and how they create hostile environments. Gain tools for making your meetings safe spaces for all participants and mitigate the harm caused by microaggressions. We'll examine case studies and engage in group discussion via an LGBTQ+ lens to understand how implicit biases produce lasting and exclusionary environments. Participants will learn how to actively establish more inclusive environments that encourage participation from all our community members.

Expanding City Functions: Public Bank, Public Health, Free Broadband



David Jette / Public Bank LA
Rachael Rose Luckey / Rampart Village Neighborhood Council (Past President)

Can you imagine Los Angeles with its own Public Bank, City Health Department, and free city-wide internet access? Join us for a presentation and discussion of the opportunities and challenges related to these and other civic roles. Los Angeles has grown tremendously throughout its history -- let's explore how we want it to grow next!





Workshop Sessions

Session 1 cont'd

8:00am - 9:00am



Getting to 100% Renewable Energy ASAP

*Dr. Loraine Lundquist / Cal State Northridge
Augustin Cabrera / Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
Ashkan Nassiri / Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
Fred Pickel / Los Angeles Office of Public Accountability
Sammy Roth / LA Times*

Have you been hearing talk about the need to move to 100% renewable energy and wondering what that means for you, your lifestyle, and your home, and what role neighborhood councils can play? Join the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance's energy committee and LA energy experts for a discussion of the LA100 study, paths to revolutionizing our power infrastructure, and more.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
EMPOWER LA



Alliances and Liaisons: Find Your Power and Passion

Various NC Alliance Representatives and Liaisons

Playing a role in alliances or as a liaison is a great way to increase your Neighborhood Council's power over City services. This speed-dating session will introduce participants to Liaison positions such as Film Liaison, Homelessness Liaison, Dept. of Public Works Liaison and Alliances such as the Emergency Preparedness Alliance, and PlanCheck. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn how to expand your network!

Session 2

10:05am - 10:50am



Organizing and Training Neighborhood Disaster Response Teams

*Patrick Botz-Forbes / Neighborhood Team Program
Dave Brown / North Hills West Neighborhood Council
Chin Thammasaengsri / Neighborhood Team Program
William Keith*

The Neighborhood Team Program (NTP) combines the best aspects of the CERT Training, RYLAN block organization, and Neighborhood Watch into a comprehensive and easy to implement turn-key solution for building self-sufficient Neighborhood Emergency Teams in each community that can stand up on their own and save lives in their own neighborhoods immediately after a disaster.



Bylaws Revisions and Standing Rules, a Deep Dive

*Doug Epperhart / Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Tony Wilkinson / Panorama City NC
Clint Birdsong / Greater Cypress Park NC (former Chair)*

The window for bylaws changes will close on April 15th, 2022. If your board is considering changes to your bylaws, then join us for a discussion of what belongs in your standing rules, what goes in the bylaws, and how to best write bylaws within City limitations. We'll also review popular or unique provisions that have worked for other NCs.





Workshop Sessions

Session 2 cont'd

10:05am - 10:50am



City's New Workplace Violence Policy: Affects All City Workers Including NCs

Lara Bairamian, Erika Johnson-Brooks, and Jamie Kim / LA City Attorney's Office, Labor Relations Division

The City of Los Angeles believes that nothing is more important than the safety and security of its employees, customers, and visitors. The City is committed to maintaining a workplace that is free from violence or threats of violence. In this session, we will discuss the City's Workplace Violence Policy and Guidelines to help members of the City's Neighborhood Councils identify incidents of workplace violence and learn ways to report incidents of violence or threats of violence to the City.

Social Media for Neighborhood Councils: Policy & Best Practices

Ann-Marie Holman / Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

This session will cover practical tips and policy considerations for NC social media use. Learn best practices for choosing content, sharing the workload, dealing with trolls, and using tools like hashtags or bio links. Also covered: the First Amendment and government social media; recent Brown Act amendments (AB992) that impact NC social media use; and the latest on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioner's draft Digital Communications/Social Media Policy for NCs.



How We Can Support Our Unhoused Neighbors (Part 1 of 2)

*Louis Abramson / Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council
Jane Demian / SELAH Eagle Rock Chapter
Helen Eigenberg / Hang Out Do Good & SELAH
Sasha Rappaport / Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council*

**additional speakers listed on page 12*

Join Neighborhood Council members, nonprofit professionals, community volunteers, and other advocates to hear how individuals can make a positive impact in our City's most extreme crisis: homelessness. During this session, participants will hear real-life case studies of successful engagements with unhoused individuals & communities in Los Angeles, as well as have an opportunity for Q&A with the different participants so attendees can be best prepared to share out best practices in their neighborhoods.



2021 Neighborhood Council Elections Feedback and Vision Session (Part 1 of 2)

*Glenn Bailey / Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
Renee McDade / LA City Clerk Election Division*

The vote-by-mail 2021 NC elections required NCs to change their approaches to candidate recruitment and to get-out-the-vote efforts. Additionally, there were a number of avoidable and unavoidable issues that came with the election this year. This session will examine what worked, what didn't work, how well the City Clerk and DONE supported NCs, and the extent to which voter registration and vote-by-mail increased or decreased participation for different types of voters.





Workshop Sessions

Session 3

11:00am - 11:45am



¡Háblame! Best Practices for Engaging Spanish Speakers

*Brenda Martinez / Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
Margarita Lopez / MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council
Gary De La Rosa / LA City Human Relations Advocate
Julien Antelin / Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Melvin Canas / LA City Clerk NC Funding Program*

The best way to reach Spanish speakers is to listen to Spanish speakers themselves. What outreach techniques are effective with Spanish-speaking communities? What are the greatest frustrations for Spanish speakers when trying to participate in Neighborhood Councils? Join us for a discussion on expanding access and diversification in the attempt to achieve richer communities for all.

Hot Legal Issues for Neighborhood Councils

LA City Attorney Neighborhood Council Advice Division

Feeling overwhelmed by all the legal requirements you need to follow? This session is an opportunity to discuss legal issues and concerns facing your neighborhood council. From the Brown Act to social media, the Neighborhood Council Advice Division will help to simplify and explain many of the common legal issues that affect NC's day to day operations. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and seek general advice from your legal representatives in the City Attorney's Office.



When Board Members Behave Badly...

*Selena Inouye / Mar Vista Community Council (former Board Member)
Doug Epperhart / Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council
George Francisco / Venice Neighborhood Council (former Vice President)
Vivienne Swanigan / LA City Attorney's Office
Sean Alyse Curley / West Adams Neighborhood Council*

No, it's not always about calling 911! Let's start the conversation about how NC Board members can take the lead and implement change in this area. Our panel of NC Leaders shares the strategies they've used to deal with this problem and keep Board business on track.

Our Land Use Future - How Neighborhood Councils Can Stay Relevant

*Jane Usher / Former LA City Planning Commission President
Dick Platkin / United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles
Anthony Dedousis / Abundant Housing LA
Philip Farha / Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Pamela Gibberman*

Fewer developments come to Neighborhood Councils for review. The city expedites development with 'incentives' in Transit Oriented Communities and increased use of Director's Determinations. State legislation eliminates local power (accessory dwelling units, SB9, SB10). This moderated discussion space invites those interested in expanded government housing, City Council projects, transportation, infrastructure (water, power, telecom), EVs, green buildings, and...?





Workshop Sessions

Session 3 cont'd

11:00am - 11:45am

How We Can Support Our Unhoused Neighbors (Part 2 of 2)

Jackie Vorhauer / The Center in Hollywood
Brittney Weissman / Hollywood 4WRD *additional speakers listed on page 10
Lindsey Chase / Mid City West Neighborhood Council

Join Neighborhood Council members, nonprofit professionals, community volunteers, and other advocates to hear how individuals can make a positive impact in our City's most extreme crisis: homelessness. During this session, participants will hear real-life case studies of successful engagements with unhoused individuals & communities in Los Angeles, as well as have an opportunity for Q&A with the different participants so attendees can be best prepared to share out best practices in their neighborhoods.

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Session 4

12:40pm - 1:25pm

Creating a More Efficient, Effective and Equitable Los Angeles

Ron Galperin / Los Angeles City Controller

The Controller's 25-30 minute presentation will include insight on his Revenue Forecast Report, LA Equity Index as well as on the key roles of departments within financing an how funds flow through the City; with extra 30 minutes for Q&A with attendees.

A Marketing Plan for Every Neighborhood

Tony Wilkinson / Panorama City NC

The "outreach" function does NOT consist of buying imprinted merchandise in the hope that it will help people discover our Neighborhood Council. The Outreach Committee is your Marketing Department. Before spending any money, you need to describe what you are trying to achieve. Who do you want to reach and what story do you want to tell? 'Brand' advertising (that your city agency exists) is different from tactical marketing (come to our town hall). This session will describe how to use many different outreach tools in a thoughtful and intelligent way.





Workshop Sessions

Session 4 cont'd

12:40pm - 1:25pm



Understanding Our Inherent Biases (Part 1 of 2)

*Hon. Joy Atkinson / BONC Commissioner
Brenda Shockley / LA Deputy Mayor of Economic Opportunity & Chief Equity Officer
Malaika Billups / LA Personnel Dept Office of Workplace Equity
Joumana Silyan-Saba / LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
Gibson Nyambura / Department of Neighborhood Empowerment*

Our subconscious biases influence us more than we know. This workshop provides an interactive exploration of the City's new Implicit Bias Training, now required for every NC board member. Those attending this session will be introduced to the training content, including examples of implicit biases that we likely all possess. This will be followed by discussion of biases we've recently learned about ourselves or are common in our communities.

Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline Through the Arts (Part 1 of 2)

*Dr. Amir Whitaker / Project Knucklehead
Dorsay Dujon / West Adams Neighborhood Council
Mario Nugara / Angel City Ballet
Dr. Margaret Martin / Project Harmony*

In this workshop, participants will learn how to engage youth through education, music, art, and other forms of self-expression to help them grow, learn to be productive citizens, and reach their potential. Project Knucklehead has worked since 2012 to provide opportunities for at-risk youth to be equipped with pro-social skills to contribute to themselves and society. Come learn how we do it and how you can do it, too!



Navigating Land Use: A Guide for Neighborhood Councils Land Use Committees (Part 1 of 2)

*Judy Thang / Moderator
Richard Larsen / LA Planning Alliance
Tom Williams / LA-32 Neighborhood Council
Dick Platkin / United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles
Carrie Sutkin
Clara Solis*

This workshop will include a panel of recognized land use leaders to weigh in and offer guidance for NC Land Use Committees. Topics will include the forthcoming Housing Element, various DCP initiatives like Re:Code, the Entitlement notification system, TOC's, how to link your community to meetings and documents, ways to discuss land use issues of local concern, and engage your community.



City Barriers to Neighborhood Power: DONE, BONC, Attorney, Clerk Funding, Elections (Part 1 of 2)

Doug Epperhart / Coastal San Pedro NC

While well meaning in isolation, collectively, the cumulative rules and requirements are stifling. This session will collect quick opinions about areas of concern, including DONE rules, BONC policies, Clerk's Funding policies, City Attorney's Brown Act advice, workplace rules, Digital Communications Policy, free speech limits, online meeting dictates, board seating policy, a broken grievance system, and unusable election systems.





Workshop Sessions

Session 5

1:35pm - 2:20pm



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Dorsay Dujon / West Adams Neighborhood Council
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A Critical Analysis of the City Budget

Jack Humphreville / Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

In this session on the City Budget, participants will explore areas of concern to Angelenos: the Structural Deficit and the impact of labor agreements, unfunded pension liabilities, and deferred maintenance on the City's Four Year Budget Outlook; the resulting impact on basic services the City provides; the importance of a healthy Reserve Fund; and the concept of Intergenerational Theft and how it affects future generations. Attendees will gain insight into a deeper level of the City's budget situation and leave with a better understanding of the City's financial future.

Understanding Our Inherent Biases (Part 1 of 2)

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Brenda Shockley / LA Deputy Mayor of Economic Opportunity & Chief Equity Officer
Malaika Billups / LA Personnel Dept Office of Workplace Equity
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Neighborhood Purposes Grants: Expectations, Philosophies, Pitfalls

*Conrad Starr / Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Matt Wersinger / Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Ash Kramer*

As budgets tighten with a return to in-person meetings, how should we define our "NPG philosophies?" How much of our annual budget should be allocated to NPGs? What do different NCs do to ensure that money is well spent and that there is a public credit to the Neighborhood Council? Join this discussion to hear various perspectives on these questions and more addressing a key tool in Neighborhood Council funding.





Workshop Sessions

Session 5 cont'd

1:35pm - 2:20pm

Navigating Land Use: A Guide for Neighborhood Councils Land Use Committees (Part 1 of 2)



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Session 6

2:45pm - 3:45pm

Involving Youth in Neighborhood Councils: Real Integration At All Levels



Lily Larsen / Mid City Neighborhood Council (former board member)
Robina Henson / Rampart Village Neighborhood Council (former board member)

What does it mean to effectively integrate youth into the Neighborhood Council system? How can we do it? Come hear from the LA Youth Alliance, a teen-run entity geared towards engaging youth stakeholders throughout Los Angeles, about what's effective (and what's not) in recruiting young voices to become a part of the decision-making process.

Climate Change Choices for Los Angeles: Power, Electrification, Water, Adaptation, and Costs the Poor Can Bear



Dr. Fred Pickel / DWP Ratepayer Advocate
Jack Humphreville / Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates
Johan Torroledo
Nancy Sutley
David Nahair

This workshop will show how the LA100 power project is part of a much bigger climate challenge for the City of LA. Learn the importance of electrifying transportation, of adapting to climate change with new local water sources, and building climate change into all long-term projects.





Workshop Sessions

Session 6 cont'd

2:45pm - 3:45pm



Using an Inclusion and Diversity Lens

Dr. Thelá Thatch / Van Nuys NC

Neighborhood Councils are the closest form of government to the people. Members and participants of neighborhood councils are as diverse as the neighborhoods they represent and serve. This session will tackle how we can work towards truly celebrating the diversity of our neighbors, especially those that look, love, pray, and otherwise live differently than we do.



Street Encampments: What Can and Cannot be Done

Commander Billy Brockway / Los Angeles Police Department

Tens of thousands of Angelenos are taking refuge on our beaches, under bridges, in parks, and in other visible and invisible locations. For Angelenos interested in improving the situation for everyone - both the housed and unhoused communities - what can we do? How can we build positive relationships with unhoused folks in our neighborhoods? In this session, hear from the LAPD about what we can do and how long it will take them to do it. What can the city do when encampments go from nuisances to dangerous? What might post-COVID enforcement look like?



Redistricting in LA: Your Voice...Your Power

Rafael Gonzalez / Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission

Redistricting is a once-a-decade opportunity to redraw our city's district boundaries to ensure fair representation for all Angelenos. The City of Los Angeles is working on redrawing its council district boundaries and like state redistricting, a local redistricting process helps assure that districts are drawn in a way that gives people equal and fair representation for the next ten years. Representation is power. Who represents you in City Hall can mean more or less affordable housing, cleaner streets, and political accountability. Join us to learn more about the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission and their plan for an inclusive and equitable redistricting process.



Power Beyond the CIS: Votes limit speech. Act as individuals, engage the whole community.

*Doug Epperhart / Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Tony Wilkinson / Panorama City NC
Joe Matthews / Zócalo Public Square
Pamela Gibberman*

When we really think about it, how much does does a Neighborhood Council's Community Impact Statement (CIS) move the needle in City Hall? More than 10 constituents calling into the councilmember's office? In this thought leadership session, we invite a "rethink" of how NCs are run and how they serve their communities. What if we were to go out, find partners, engage the community, tell people what's going on Downtown, give them the tools (and power) to take on the City on their own?





Closing Session

2:25PM - 2:45PM

- Hosted by Manjusha Kulkarni, Co-Founder of Stop AAPI Hate
- Closing Remarks by Raquel Beltran, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
- Keynote Address by Dr. Melina Abdullah, Co-Founder, Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles
- Adjournment by Daniel A. Perez, Chair of the 2021 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee



In Memoriam

We thank you for your service.

- **Bette Biers**, Granada Hills South
- **Marjorie Brown**, West Hills
- **Pete Burmeister**, Northwest San Pedro
- **Leslie Hagen-Morgan**, CANN DU
- **Dick Harmetz**, Westside
- **Linda Phelps**, Historic Highland Park
- **Linda Pruett**, Lake Balboa
- **Uday Shakour**, Sherman Oaks
- **Gerald Silver**, Encino
- **Ron Sobel**, West Hills
- **Alexia Teran**, Greater Cypress Park
- **Bobbi Trantafello**, West Hills
- **Nancy Wyatt**, Historic Highland Park



Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Dr. Melina Abdullah she/her
Co-Founder, Black Lives Matter-LA & People's Budget LA

Dr. Melina Abdullah is a Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Co-Director of Black Lives Matter Grassroots, and Mama of three children.



Louis Evan Abramson he/him
Chair, Homelessness Committee
Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council

Louis is an astrophysicist. Elected to the Central Hollywood NC in 2019, he works to end the homelessness currently experienced by nearly 1-in-30 CHNC stakeholders. He's a founding board member of Hollywood 4WRD - a nonprofit coalition to end homelessness - and Hollywood Harvest - a nonprofit fighting food insecurity.
leabramson@gmail.com



Greg Akili he/him
Core Team, Black Lives Matter-LA & People's Budget LA

Longtime political, labor, and community organizer, who first entered the work as an organizer with Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers. He's one of the core members of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, and has guided and trained countless organizers.



Colette Amin she/her
Production Subcommittee Co-Chair, Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee

Colette Amin a Pepperdine Seaver Alum, has served the Congress Planning Committee since 2016, Founder of JADV a 501(c)3 serving Domestic Violence Victims in SLA, CASFAA Executive Board Diversity Rep. 2018 -2020, LACCD EEO Certified Hiring Comm, and Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Outreach Chair.
colettelacongress@gmail.com



Julien Antelin he/him
Director of Innovation, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Julien Antelin is the Director of Innovation of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment of the City of Los Angeles, California. He was previously Chief of Staff at the Mayor's office of Paris, France in charge of Local Democracy, Civic Engagement, Youth Development and Employment.



Joy P. Atkinson she/her
Commissioner, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Joy Atkinson has served as a Commissioner under 3 mayors. She administers a leadership development, public policy instruction course for the Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute. Joy worked for the California State Assembly for a total of 20 years.
joyatkinson.bonc@gmail.com



Glenn Bailey he/him
President, Northridge East Neighborhood Council



Lara Bairamian she/her
Deputy City Attorney, Los Angeles Office of the City Attorney

Lara Bairamian serves as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles in the Labor Relations Division.



Raquel Beltrán she/her
General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

As the General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Raquel is responsible for the overall management of the department, including development of the budget, strategic planning, programs and services, policies, personnel and constituent and City government relations.



Malaika C. Billups she/her
Chief Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer, City of LA, Office of Workplace Equity

As Chief DEI Officer, Ms. Billups oversees the City's Office of Workplace Equity. She manages the City's equity investigation process, leads efforts to re-envision the City's workplace equity policies and enforcement procedures, and collaborates with City departments and leadership to build a more inclusive workplace.

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Bob Blumenfield he/him
Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 3
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in March, 2013 and re-elected in 2017. He represents the 3rd Council District, which spans the northwest portion of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, including the communities of Canoga Park, Reseda, Tarzana, Winnetka and Woodland Hills.



Patrick Botz-Forbes he/him
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Patrick volunteers as the LAFD CERT Central Bureau Coordinator, a Red Cross EMT, and as a Staff Sergeant in the California State Guard. Full-time he works as an IT Server Engineer for a local non-profit. Patrick's goal is to help organize each community and prepare to respond during a major earthquake.
info@ntp-la.org



Commander Billy Brockway he/him
Homeless Coordinator, LAPD
Billy Brockway Jr. is a native Angelino and currently resides in Northeast Area with his wife and three children. Commander Brockway began his career with the Los Angeles Police Department in August of 1994, has worked in multiple LAPD divisions throughout the city and currently serves as the department's Homeless Coordinator.



Dave Brown he/him
Secretary & Emergency Preparedness Chair, North Hills West Neighborhood Council
Founding member of Southern California Preparedness Foundation, which produces the annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair, facilitates CERT classes-100+, including Spanish classes, presents MYN/Rylan and supports Emergency Preparedness education by NTP: Neighborhood Team Program
dbrown@nhwnc.net



Lauren Buisson she/they
Vice-Chair, LGBTQ+ Alliance of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils
Lauren Buisson (pronouns she/they) An EPNC Board Member, is the Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Alliance of Neighborhood Councils which works to achieve visibility, safety, equality, racial justice, and representation for all LGBTQ+ stakeholders, the Los Angeles NC system and the City of Los Angeles.
lauren.buisson.epnc@gmail.com



Agustin Cabrera they/them
RePower LA Director, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
They have nearly a decade of experience developing strategic campaigns and leadership development programs that center workers, clean energy, and equity. RePower LA has successfully advocated for utility debt relief, energy affordability, community solar, and good union jobs at the LADWP.
acabrera@laane.org



Melvin Cañas he/him
Program Manager, NC Funding Program - Office of the City Clerk
Melvin has been part of the NC System since 2001 when he joined the newly-established Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to help organize and certify NCs. In 2017, he joined the Office of the City Clerk to continue assisting NCs with the NC Funding Program.
Clerk.NCFunding@lacity.org



Lindsey Chase she/her
Co-Chair, Social and Racial Equity Committee, Mid-City West Neighborhood Council
Lindsey is a passionate public affairs leader with proven expertise in fostering community connections, building government partnerships, and developing innovative public service programs that lead to positive systemic change for highly impacted populations. She is currently working as a Program Manager for LA County Dept. of Health Services in their Housing for Health Program.



Freddy Cupen-Ames he/him
Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
DONE Liaison, Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods



Sean Alyse Curley she/her
Parliamentarian, West Adams Neighborhood Council
I'm a long time employee of the West Adams Community where I serve as the educational representative and parliamentarian of the West Adams Neighborhood Council and work as the Magnet Coordinator at Baldwin Hills Elementary School.
seancurleywanc@gmail.com

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



John Darnell he/him
 Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate,
 Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
 John is responsible for supporting Neighborhood
 Council Boards with capacity building, training, and
 organizing skills that Empower LA and engage the
 community.
john.darnell@lacity.org



Adriana De La Cruz she/her
 Area D Director, Del Rey Neighborhood
 Council
 Adriana De La Cruz is the Secretary of the Los Angeles
 Neighborhood Council Coalition, Treasurer of the 2021
 Congress of Neighborhoods and an Area Director
 within the Del Rey Neighborhood Council.
Adriana.DeLaCruz@DelReyNC.Org



Gary De La Rosa he/him/him
 Human Relations Advocate
 Has worked with Neighborhood Councils since 2002.
 He has assisted developing councils, facilitated retreats
 and trainings, and acted as the Final Decision Maker for
 election challenges.



Anthony Dedousis he/him
 Director of Policy and Research, Abundant
 Housing Los Angeles
 Anthony is Director of Policy and Research at Abundant
 Housing LA, a nonprofit organization that advocates for
 more housing in Los Angeles. In this role, he leads
 AHLA's efforts to develop data-driven housing research
 and policy proposals that expand housing availability
 and lower costs.
anthony@abundanthousingla.org



Jane Demian, MA, RN she/her
 Co-Chair, SELAH Eagle Rock Chapter
 Eagle Rock NC Homelessness Liaison
 Jane helped found the Eagle Rock Neighborhood
 Council Housing and Homelessness Committee. She
 started doing outreach to unhoused Eagle Rock
 residents in 2019. She is a retired ICU nurse, has a
 Masters degree in Psychology Research, is a health care
 provider and business owner, and grandmother.



Dorsay Dujon she/her
 Secretary, West Adams Neighborhood Council
 Dorsay is an art's advocate dedicated to engaging and
 transforming communities of Los Angeles through
 shared cultural experiences of the visual and performing
 arts. To ensure all children and their families have an
 opportunity to participate in ongoing music and art
 programs.
DorsayDujonArts.WANC@gmail.com



Helen Eigenberg she/her
 Co-Founder, Hang Out Do Good (HODG)
 Helen Eigenberg is one (of many) co founders of Hang
 Out Do Good. She also volunteers with these amazing
 groups---SELAH-Hollywood and NOHO Alliance and
 Hollywood 4WRD. She is the non profit alternate for
 the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council.



Doug Epperhart he/him
 President, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood
 Council
 Doug Epperhart has been involved with the
 neighborhood council system since its inception. He is
 beginning his 17th year on the Coastal San Pedro NC
 and 11th as president. He served on the Board of
 Neighborhood Commissioners and has been part of
 many NC initiatives during the past two decades.
epperhart@cox.net



Philip Farha he/him
 Chair, Land Use Committee, Greater Wilshire
 Neighborhood Council
Landusechair@greaterwilshire.org



George Francisco he/him
 Former Vice President, Venice Neighborhood
 Council
 George Francisco was a member of the Venice NC from
 2014-2021, serving first as Community Officer then VP.
 He chaired the Public Safety, Business and
 Neighborhood Committees and oversaw the VNC's 18
 committee system, trained the respective Chairs and
 served on the Budget, Rules and Administrative
 committees.

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Ron Galperin he/him
Los Angeles City Controller

Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin is the taxpayers' watchdog at City Hall, making sure public dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. He is also the elected paymaster, auditor and chief accounting officer for the City of Los Angeles. Galperin oversees a team that works to create a more transparent and accountable city for everyone.
@lacontroller



Rafael Gonzalez he/him
Director of Community Outreach, LA City Council Redistricting Commission

Rafael Gonzalez is a proven and inclusive leader, manager and advocate driven by his core values of justice, collaboration, accountability, balance, respect, trust and innovation. His multisector experience has gifted him the skill to realize common objectives, social impact, equity and community/systems change.



Vanessa Gutierrez she/her
Community Relations Coordinator SPA 6, LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

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213-808-9176



Kay Hartman she/her
Treasurer, Palms Neighborhood Council

Kay Hartman is Vice-Chair of the Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee. She serves on the Palms Neighborhood Council and is a Budget Advocate. She has a degree in Mathematics and had a long career in software development. She and her husband are world travelers and have visited over 40 countries.
kay.hartman@palmsnc.la



Ann-Marie Holman she/they
Public Information Officer, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Ann-Marie Holman is the Public Information Officer for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and a former member of the Echo Park NC. She has 15 years of experience as a marketing, communications, PR and community engagement specialist. This is Ann-Marie's 7th year teaching at the Congress of Neighborhoods.
annmarie.holman@LAcity.org



Rev. Rae Huang she/her
Clergy for Black Lives, Presbytery of the Pacific

Rev. Rae Huang is a Presbyterian pastor and community organizer. She lives in Los Angeles with her two children.



Jack Humphreville he/him
Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

Jack Humphreville is a Budget Advocate and the chair of the NC DWP Advocacy Committee. Jack has published over 1,100 articles in CityWatch which, for the most part, comment on the financial affairs of the City and the Department of Water and Power and their impact on Angelenos.
lajack@gmail.com



Selena Inouye she/her
Former At-Large Board Member (2019-2021), Mar Vista Community Council

Selena serves as an Outreach Co-Chair on the 2021 Congress Planning Committee. Selena is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker and person living with disabilities. She became a community advocate with her local neighborhood council in 2017 in response to stakeholders saying they were excluded from the decision-making process for the Venice Blvd. road diet.



Dr. Leonor Johansen she/her
Clinical Psychologist & Speaker's Bureau Ambassador for the Dept. of Mental Health

Dr. Leonor Johansen is a Clinical Psychologist for LACDMH. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Southern California and PhD in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. Her expertise is in cultural diversity and community mental health.



Erika Johnson-Brooks she/her
Deputy City Attorney, Los Angeles Office of the City Attorney

Erika Johnson-Brooks is a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles in the Labor Relations Division where she advises City departments and officials in labor and employment law. She also serves in the Office's Workplace Violence Unit. As a part of her duties, she conducts trainings for attorneys and staff.

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Tabatha L. Jones Jolivet she/her
Organizer, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles



Heinrich V. Keifer he/him
Former President & Treasurer, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council
I began my community service in '92 joining the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, in '99 I joined the proposed HHPNC, in 2000 I served as interim Treasurer, in '02 as elected Treasurer, president in '05. I joined the Congress Planning group in '08 under GM Kim. I currently serve as the Production Co-Chair.
hkeifer101@sbcglobal.net



Jamie Kim she/her
Deputy City Attorney, Los Angeles Office of the City Attorney
Jamie Kim serves as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles in the Labor Relations Division.



Max Kirkham he/him
Co-Chair, LGBTQ+ Alliance of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils
Max Kirkham is the co-chair of the LGBTQ+ Alliance of Los Angeles Councils. Previously, he served as Vice President of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council.
lalgbtqalliance@gmail.com



Manjusha P. Kulkarni she/her
Co-founder, Stop AAPI Hate
Manjusha P. Kulkarni (Manju) is Executive Director of Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), a coalition of 40+ community-based organizations that serves and represents the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in LA County. Manju also serves as a Lecturer at UCLA. In 2020, Manju co-founded Stop AAPI Hate, the nation's leading aggregator of COVID-19-related hate incidents against AAPIs.



Lily Larsen she/her
Former Board Member, Mid City Neighborhood Council
Lily Larsen has been attending NC meetings since she was a kid. As a Teen (2017) she noticed a lack of youth representation, advocated for the youth rep. seat & in 2020 created the first public art committee on MINC. She is a previous NC Congress speaker and currently studies Government at American university in DC.
@lily4la



Richard William Larsen he/him
Founder, LA Planning Alliance
Secretary of the LA Congress, Lincoln Heights NC Board member, Chair Emeritus of the Planning and Land Use Committee, Chair Emeritus of the affordable housing committee (5 Lots Ad Hoc), and retired architect for John Parkinson Architects, Head of Production.
RWLarsen.LAPA@gmail.com



Gloria F. Leiva she/her
Mental Health Promoters, LA County Department of Mental Health
My name is Gloria F. Leiva, conducting mental health presentation to underserved cultural and linguistic communities in Los Angeles County to decrease mental health stigma is my passion.
GLEIVA@dmh.lacounty.gov



Margarita Lopez she/her
Treasurer, MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council
margaritzel@yahoo.com



Dr. Loraine Lundquist she/her
Board Member, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
Dr. Loraine Lundquist is a Faculty Associate at the Institute for Sustainability at Cal State University Northridge and a board member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. She has served as a member of the Community Advisory Group for the LA 100 study and previous LADWP energy planning processes.
loraine.lundquist@gmail.com

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Capri Maddox, Esq. she/her
Executive Director, Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
Capri Maddox is the Executive Director of the LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity (LA Civil Rights). Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Ms. Maddox to the position in February 2020 to address systemic racism and bias in the areas of commerce, education, employment, and housing.



Margaret Martin, DrPH, MPH she/her
Founder, Harmony Project
Margaret Martin is a doctor of public health, and founder of Harmony Project. Since 2001 Harmony Project has used intensive music training to engage, challenge and mentor children with few resources from early childhood through high school graduation.
310-916-7735



Brenda Martinez she/her
Boardmember, Area Representative and TEC Chair, Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council



Joe Matthews he/him
California columnist & editor, Zócalo Public Square
California syndicated columnist and editor, Zócalo Public Square. Arizona State University senior director. Co-president, Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy, world's leading network of people who work on direct democracy. Former LATimes, WSJ, Baltimore Sun reporter, and New America senior fellow.
joe@zocalopublicsquare.org



Jeffrey Mausner he/him
Chairman, Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee
Tarzana Neighborhood Council: Board of Directors, 2nd Vice President, Chair of Animal Welfare Committee; Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and Tarzana NC Liaison to Los Angeles Animal Services Department; Neighborhood Council Budget Representative; Volunteer, West Valley Animal Shelter; Former Federal Prosecutor, United States Department of Justice
Jeff@MausnerLaw.com



Heather S. Michaels she/her
Board Member, Encino Neighborhood Council
Heather S. Michaels is a Nationally known TV and Media Broadcast Personality and Humanitarian, has been a high profile Advocate for the Community and the News Industry for over 25 years. Heather is a Neighborhood Council Board member, and also sits on numerous committees, advocating for our communities



Josh Nadel he/him
Co-Chair, Budget Tribunes
Chair of Adult Advisory Board, LA Youth Alliance
Layouthalliance@gmail.com



Ashkan Nassiri he/him
Manager, Distributed Energy Resources Planning, LADWP
As LADWP Manager of Distributed Energy Resources Planning, Ashkan Nassiri leads Distribution Planning, Distributed Energy Resources Planning, and the Distributed Resources Plan development and played a key role in developing and leading the groundbreaking LA100 Study with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.



Wayne Neal he/him
Committee Member, Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee
Wayne Neal was a Boardmember for the Del Rey Neighborhood Council as well as a Co-Chair for the council's Education Committee. He now resides in Las Vegas, NV, where he teaches and works with the City of Las Vegas by organizing community events and resources.
wndelreync@gmail.com



Mario Nugara he/him
Founder & Artistic Director, Angel City Ballet
Los Angeles City College instructor, Mario Nugara teaches Dance. He is also founder and Artistic Director of the City of Angels Ballet. Mario is regarded as a teacher of unparalleled talent in the Los Angeles area. He received his training at George Balanchine's School of American Ballet.
<http://www.cityofangelsballet.com/about/>

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Eric Oxenberg he/him
Outreach Subcommittee, LA Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee
Eric is a marketing and design professional with over 35 years' experience promoting businesses in Southern California. Eric's Company, COINCIDENT IDEAS, specializes in strategic marketing, email and social media campaigns, copywriting, art direction and website development. Find out more at his website, www.coincidentideas.com



Daniel A. Perez he/him
Chair, LA Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee
Daniel works every day for a better tomorrow. In addition to leading the planning of the Congress, he serves on the Del Rey & Central Hollywood NCs, is a volunteer panelist for the City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Program, is Secretary of the LGBTQ+ Alliance of LA NCs, and helps run a Little League. @dapwizardman



Dr. Fred Pickel he/him
Executive Director/Ratepayer Advocate, Los Angeles Office of Public Accountability
Dr. Pickel has over forty years of experience in gas and electric utilities and government, in the United States and abroad. Clients and employers have included public and private energy users, utility equipment vendors, utilities, regulators, and governments. He has degrees from MIT and Harvey Mudd College. fred.pickel@LAcity.org



Dick Platkin he/him
Co-Chair, Greater Fairfax Residents Assoc. Treasurer, United Neighborhoods for LA
Dick Platkin has 30 plus years of city planning experience. Since retiring from the LA City Planning, he taught planning at USC and CSUN, consulted to many community groups, and joined the board of United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles (UN4LA). He also writes CityWatchLA's Planning Watch column. rhplatkin@gmail.com



David Price he/him
Director of Racial Equity, Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
David Price serves as Director of Racial Equity for the LA Civil Rights Department. Prior to joining the department, he served in various capacities for Mayor Eric Garcetti, including as the Senior Area Representative. Since 2017, David has also served as the Youth Minister at First A.M.E. Church of Los Angeles.



Sasha Rapaport he/him
Housing, Renters, and Homelessness Chair, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council
Sasha is a transformation manager for education and nonprofits at MURAL, board member and organizer for LA Forward, volunteer organizer for CalCare, chair of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council's Housing, Renters, & Homeless Committee, husband, and father.



Jason Rondou he/him
Director, Resource Planning, Development, and Programs, LA Dept. of Water and Power
Jason Rondou oversaw completion of the LA100 Study, which identified the major investments required to reliably and cost-effectively transition LADWP to 100% renewable energy. In his current role, Rondou is responsible for LADWP's Strategic Long-Term Resource Plan among other efforts to meet L.A.'s clean energy goals.



Sammy Roth he/him
Energy Reporter, LA Times
Sammy Roth covers energy for the Los Angeles Times and writes the weekly Boiling Point newsletter. He previously reported for the Desert Sun and USA Today, where he focused on renewable energy, climate change, electric utilities and public lands. @Sammy_Roth



Brenda Shockley she/her
Deputy Mayor for Economic Opportunity, City of Los Angeles
Deputy Mayor Brenda Shockley was appointed as the Deputy Mayor of Economic Opportunity for the City of Los Angeles by Mayor Eric Garcetti in July 2016. The mission of the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity is to eliminate and prevent homelessness and poverty, with compassion and inclusion, through education, training, and employment at a livable wage.



Joumana Silyan-Saba she/her
Director, Policy & Discrimination Enforcement, Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
Joumana Silyan-Saba serves as the Director of Policy and Discrimination Enforcement for the Los Angeles City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (LA Civil Rights). Ms. Silyan-Saba is an accomplished public leader, with a career spanning 17 years of service in non-profit and city government.

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Vas Singh he/him
Vice-President, Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Board Member of Porter Ranch NC for more than eight years. Outreach, Police, Fire and Public Safety Committee, Member - Planning Committees of Congress of Neighborhoods and First Valley Regional Congress. Neighborhood Council Plan Review and Reform Initiative Committee. Mayor's North Valley Budget Advocate.



Maria Skelton she/her
Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee Member, Anti-Recidivism Activist



Dana Stangel she/her
Founder and Executive Director, Teranga Ranch
Dana Stangel is the Founder and Executive Director of Teranga Ranch. She is a credentialed Biology teacher and a former: Peace Corps Volunteer, CERT Volunteer, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) President, and STNC Animal Issues Committee Co-Founder and Co-Chair.
info@terangaranch.org



Conrad Starr he/him
President, Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Conrad presented on Emergency Preparedness at the 2018 and 2019 Congresses and holds leadership roles in his Neighborhood Council, Community-Police Advisory Board, and the CERT Neighborhood Team Program and participates in the NC Emergency Preparedness Alliance and the Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association



Lynn Jeong Stransky she/her
WCKNC Business Representative / LGBTQ+ Alliance of LA Neighborhood Councils
Jeong (Lynn Stransky) is a Korean American artist and activist. She seeks to foster community, compassion, and radical kindness. She serves as an AD53 delegate to the CDP Convention, business representative to the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council, and on the LGBTQ+ Alliance of Neighborhood Councils.
stransky.wcknc@gmail.com



Vivienne Swanigan she/her
Managing Assistant City Attorney, Labor Relations, LA City Attorney's Office
Vivienne is a 35-year veteran of the City Attorney's Office, with extensive expertise in employment law, human resources, and WV prevention. She has chaired the CTAT, and handled HR, employment advice, training, and litigation. She currently supervises a team providing labor, HR, employment, and WV advice.
vivienne.swanigan@lacity.org



Corine Taylor she/her
Community Relations Manager, LA28
Born and raised in Los Angeles, Corine Taylor is responsible for maintaining positive relations with LA28 venue cities and stakeholder groups to cultivate community support, input and inclusion. Corine joined the team in November 2016.
ctaylor@la28.org



Chin L. Thammasaengsri he/him
Area Director, Neighborhood Team Program
cert68chin@gmail.com



Judy Thang she/her
Opening Session Host
Judy Thang is an LA native based out of Echo Park and Chinatown. As an active community member, she has most recently supported and volunteered with CCED (Chinatown Center for Equitable Development), the Auntie Sewing Squad, and is currently a District Director at Toastmasters District 52.



Dr. Thelá R. Thatch she/her
At-Large Representative & Chair of Human Services Committee, Van Nuys NC
Dr. Thelá R. Thatch is a human resources & equity strategist. With more than two decades of professional experience, she's passionate about building communities where an authentic commitment to inclusion, equity, and diversity thrives. Thelá holds a Ph.D. in public policy from Walden University.
lthela.thatch@vnnc.org

Meet Your Speakers & Coordinators



Jackie Vorhauer she/her
Director of Development and External Affairs,
The Center in Hollywood
Following fifteen years in television, Jackie left the industry to work in homeless services seeking to address a crisis that is close to her heart. Over the past 6 years she has applied her experience to the nonprofit world. At The Center in Hollywood, she drives fundraising, communications, and advocacy to help break the cycle of homelessness.



Brittney Weissman she/her
Executive Director, Hollywood 4WRD
Brittney is Executive Director of Hollywood 4WRD, the coalition championing solutions to end homelessness in Greater Hollywood and a Commissioner for the LA County Mental Health Commission. Previously, she was CEO of NAMI Greater LA County. She earned her MA in Public Policy from USC and her BA from Occidental College. Brittney loves her work, Los Angeles, and her family – including rescue pup, Joy.



Amir Whitaker, PhD he/him
Founder and Director, Project Knucklehead
Amir is an educator, author, civil rights lawyer, and musician. He is the founder and director of Project KnuckleHead, a nonprofit organization empowering youth through music, art, and educational programs since 2012.
DrWhitaker@ProjectKnucklehead.org



Matt Wersinger he/him
President, Del Rey Neighborhood Council
matt.wersinger@delreync.org



Tony Wilkinson he/him
Panorama City Neighborhood Council
Chair, Neighborhood Council - LADWP MOU Oversight Committee; Executive Committee, Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; Co-Chair, Congress Programming Subcommittee; LANCC Working Group for Constructive Change; SFV Coalition on Gangs, SPA2 Council for Family Well Being; LAPD Mission CPAB.
TW @slowtony IG @slowtonyw
tonyw.civic@gmail.com, 818-212-5384



Tom Williams, PhD he/him
Director, LA-32 Neighborhood Council
President, Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Member, LA Planning Alliance
PhD Geology Zoology CEQA/NEPA professional 40yr
LA Resident Retired/Active Director LA32NC
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ERRORS, INACCURACIES AND OMISSIONS: Our all-volunteer Planning Committee has attempted to ensure that the information available in this program does not contain typographical errors, inaccuracies or omissions. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

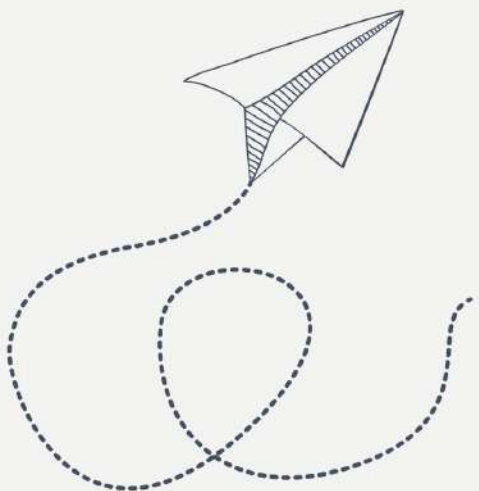
Thank you for attending the 2021 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods!

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Elysian Valley Riverside
Empowerment Congress Central
Empowerment Congress North
Empowerment Congress Southeast
Empowerment Congress Southwest
Empowerment Congress West
Encino
Foothills Trails District
Glassell Park
Granada Hills North
Granada Hills South
Greater Cypress Park
Greater Toluca Lake
Greater Valley Glen
Greater Wilshire

Harbor City
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Harbor Gateway South
Hermon
Historic Cultural North
Historic Highland Park
Hollywood Hills West
Hollywood Studio District
Hollywood United
LA-32
Lake Balboa
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Westlake North
Westlake South
Westside
Westwood
Wilmington
Wilshire Center-Koreatown
Winnetka
Woodland Hills-Warner Center
Zapata-King

Save the Date!



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Saturday, Sept 24, 2022